perhaps, that they might bite off the limbs of unwary agriculturists disporting in the sea. The book should have been styled the "Natural History of India," or "A Manual of the Natural History of India," rather than the "Agricultural Pests of India." But the fact that rather too many subjects are dealt with cannot be held to be a very serious fault in a compilation containing an immense amount of serviceable information arranged alphabetically, together with a good index, so that any head can be quickly found. The author had great opportunities of acquiring knowledge of the branches of natural history he has here discussed while he was engaged in forming the Government Central Museum at Madras, and other museums in various parts of India, as well as in the preparation of "The Cyclopædia of India" and his work on "The Timber Trees of India." He was therefore very well qualified to prepare this manual or dictionary of natural history, which will serve to show Indian agriculturists what are the principal foes of their crops and herds. No remedies or methods of prevention are given in detail. Some general instructions appear in the introductory chapters, such as to farm cleanly, and to use certain washes and powders in case of the attack of some insects. These, however, have evidently been taken from lists of remedies prescribed by American and English practical entomologists, and have not been actually tried in India. Now that Surgeon-General Balfour has demonstrated the dangers, and indicated general remedies which have been found advantageous in other climes, the farmers, the foresters, and fruit-growers of India should at once make experiments, and prove for themselves whether these are as efficacious in the fiery heat of the East as in the temperate climates of Great Britain and America.

This notice cannot be concluded without an allusion to some of the errors which have been carelessly allowed to remain in the book, having evidently escaped the notice of the eminent scientific man who "revised nearly the whole in manuscript, and the proofs as they passed through the press." It is not to be expected that Surgeon-General Balfour should be a skilled entomologist, but it is very unfortunate for him that those on whom he relied for assistance should have so signally failed him. He says that the *Cecidomyia tritici* is the Hessian fly of Europe and America. In reality the Hessian fly of Europe and America is *Cecidomyia destructor*, named so by Say long ago, and is completely and specifically distinct from *Cecidomyia tritici*, which is the true wheat midge of Great Britain. This is a mistake which appears unpardonable in a scientific reviser. On p. 45 it is stated that "the species of Necrophorus and Silpha are useful; they feed on carrion, and by scratching the ground from under dead animals they partially bury them." As a fact the *Silpha opaca*, and another species, the *Silpha atrata*, eat and seriously injure plants of beet and mangel-wurzel, as has been shown by Curtis and Miss Ormerod in England, by Guérin Méneville in France, and Taschenberg in Germany. It need hardly be said that correct information as to the habits of insects is as necessary as accurate nomenclature—at least to agriculturists.

Again, under the heading Buprestidæ and Elateridæ (click beetles) it is remarked that the larvæ feed on living wood, and are more or less injurious. The wire-worm, the larva of *Elater lineatus*, is fearfully destructive to the roots of crops of all kinds. In the description of Elateridæ, further on, this kind of mischief is attributed to their larvæ; so that there are two utterly conflicting accounts of the habits of these insects, calculated to puzzle the inquiring Indian farmers.

A sweeping statement that "all the weevil family insert their eggs in the stigma of the flower" cannot be supported, and is utterly opposed to the experience of observers. A few species do this, but others deposit their eggs in a variety of places. Of weevils it is also said that they "attack principally in their larval stage every part of vegetable tissues." As a fact, many weevils do incredible harm to vegetation in their perfect or weevil form, and it would be difficult for the larvæ—mere maggots—to hold on to leaves.

Sitonas, described as attacking stored grain and seed, have been evidently mistaken for species of Bruchi.

These and other mistakes ought to be corrected before the work is put into the hands of the agriculturists of India as a text-book for their guidance.

CELL-DIVISION IN ANIMALS.

La Cytodiérèse chez les Animaux: Étude comparée du Noyau et du Protoplasme. Par T. B. Carnoy, Professor of Biology in the University of Louvain. (Louvain: A. Peeters, 1886.)

IN this work the learned biologist of Louvain has ably resumed and discussed the latest researches made concerning the phenomena of cell-division in arthropods and worms. It is, of course, impossible in a short article to do justice to the great labour and admirable patience here displayed by the distinguished author; nor can we discuss as fully as the subject deserves the several points on which Dr. Carnoy appears to differ essentially from other workers in the same field, as, for instance, from Prof. E. Van Beneden and from Mr. Nussbaum. But the questions raised by the Louvain Professor are of such importance that even a summary of his present views cannot fail to be of interest.

First, as regards cell-division in arthropods, Prof. Carnoy maintains that in them the direct mode of division may be observed in various tissues, young and adult, and must be admitted to have all the characters of what he terms "un processus normal."

This direct mode occurs either by "étranglement" or by the help of a partition, just as in vegetable cells, and this is verified for the protoplasm itself as well as for the nucleus.

Then, contrasting the direct with the indirect or karyokinetic mode of cell-division, he remarks that those two processes have in reality the same morphological significance and physiological value; that the characters of karyokinesis are inconstant, and that they may often be seen passing through many intermediate stages into the characters proper to the akinetic mode. Nevertheless, our author admits that karyokinesis is of considerable importance to cell-life, inasmuch as it affords an easier and surer method for making the cell dicentric; it also leads to the division of the nuclear element into two equal parts; it enriches the protoplasm with plastine; and,

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lastly, it renders possible the total regeneration of the nucleus. In the present state of our knowledge, however, there is obviously much that is hypothetical in the respective importance of these consequences.

It is chiefly in his researches on the embryology of Nematoda that Prof. Carnoy has reached conclusions which are totally at variance with those already arrived at on the same subject by Messrs. Nussbaum and E. Van Beneden. We allude especially to the mode of formation of the polar bodies in the egg of *Ascaris megalocephala.* For the Louvain Professor, the two successive divisions which take place in the germinal vesicle assume the following characters:—

(1) The nuclear element ("élément nucléinien typique") of the egg of *Ascaris megalocephala* becomes at an early stage broken up into eight nearly equal rod-like portions; these at once separate into two groups of four rods ("bâtonnets"), thus constituting the Wagnerian spots.

(2) When a spermatozoid has made its way into the egg, sometimes very soon afterwards, occasionally later, an alteration of the germinal vesicle becomes visible; its membrane dissolves away, and subsequently, by a process of true karyokinetic division accompanied by the formation of asters of remarkable variety and complexity, the first polar body is expelled. This he finds to consist of four nuclear rods and a portion of the protoplasm of the egg. At this stage, therefore, according to Dr. Carnoy, four rods only remain within the egg.

(3) Now the same process begins again, in all essential respects resembling that which has just been described; finally, the second polar body is expelled in its turn. It consists of two nuclear rods, so that only two rods remain now in the egg for the formation of the female pronucleus. We are thus in a position to calculate accurately the amount of nuclein lost by the germinal vesicle during the expulsion of the polar bodies. According to Prof. Carnoy, the loss, for *Ascaris megalocephala*, would amount exactly to three-fourths of the nuclein originally present in the egg.

We are not sure whether Prof. E. Van Beneden's views on this delicate question may not be to a certain extent reconciled with those of the eminent biologist of Louvain, especially as regards the number of nuclear portions contained in the first polar body. But respecting the constitution of the second polar body the views of the two Belgian observers are certainly difficult, if not impossible, to reconcile.

Prof. Carnoy's book reads easily, and his statements are always clear and definite. The text is illustrated by a large number of figures, beautifully executed, which greatly enhance the value of this most interesting and important work.

L. MARTIAL KLEIN.

OUR BOOK SHELF.

The Climatic Treatment of Consumption: a Contribution to Medical Climatology. By J. A. Lindsay, M.A., M.D. (London: Macmillan and Co., 1887.)

DR. LINDSAY does not profess to have written a systematic and exhaustive treatise upon the climatic treatment of consumption. He holds that we are only on the threshold of climatological investigation: and "for its exhaustive discussion," he says, "prolonged inquiry will be necessary, and more exact methods than those hitherto generally employed." He has made, however, an important contribution to the study of a very difficult subject, and his book ought to be of much service not only to physicians but to many sufferers who may still hope to find in climatic treatment a powerful adjunct to hygienic and medical measures. Having discussed the causes of consumption and the general principles of climatic treatment, Dr. Lindsay presents a general view of the chief sanatoria for consumption. He then describes mountain sanatoria and the ocean voyage, and gives a full and trustworthy account of sanatoria he himself has visited, including Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, California, the Cape, Algeria, Southern France, and the home sanatoria. The value of the book is, of course, greatly increased by the fact that he has relied for his information mainly on personal observation.

Illustrations of the British Flora. Drawn by W. H. Fitch, F.L.S., and W. G. Smith, F.L.S. Second Edition. (London: L. Reeve and Co., 1887.)

WHEN the illustrated edition of Bentham's "Hand-book of the British Flora" was exhausted, the wood engravings of that work were reproduced in a volume intended to serve as a companion to the "Hand-book" and other British Floras. The volume has been so popular that the publishers have found it necessary to issue a second edition; and they have taken pains to secure that it shall be more useful than ever to students of botany, and especially to beginners. Five cuts have been added, and the arrangement of all the illustrations has been brought into accordance with Bentham's "Hand-book" as it has been revised by Sir J. D. Hooker. To facilitate reference from other Floras, the index has been greatly enlarged, and there is a new index of English and popular names.

Sketches of Life in Japan. By Major Henry Knollys, R.A. With Illustrations. (London: Chapman and Hall, 1887.)

IN this book Major Knollys undertakes to tell us something of "the minor lights and shades" of the social life of Japan. He is a careful observer, and writes brightly and pleasantly; and no doubt the lively record of his impressions will interest a good many readers who would not have cared to study a more elaborate and systematic account of the Japanese people. The substance of the book was written "on the spot," but all statements with regard to matters of fact have been carefully revised.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

[The Editor does not hold himself responsible for opinions expressed by his correspondents. Neither can he undertake to return, or to correspond with the writers of, rejected manuscripts. No notice is taken of anonymous communications.

[The Editor urgently requests correspondents to keep their letters as short as possible. The pressure on his space is so great that it is impossible otherwise to insure the appearance even of communications containing interesting and novel facts.]

Thought without Words.

THERE appears to be some ambiguity about this matter as discussed in the correspondence which has recently taken place in your columns. In the first instance Mr. Galton understood Prof. Max Müller to have argued that in no individual human mind can any process of thought be ever conducted without the mental rehearsal of words, or the *verbum mentale* of the Schoolmen. Now, although this is the view which certainly appears to pervade the Professor's work on "The Science of Thought," there is one passage in that work, and several passages in his subsequent correspondence with Mr. Galton, which express quite

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